

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a machine identifier comprising:
generating a database of records comprising object identifiers, each record having an associated memory block location;
randomly deleting records in the database, the memory locations of the deleted records becoming available for allocation;
allocating a file comprising ~~one or more randomly located~~ memory blocks of the memory locations of the deleted records, each of the blocks having an object identifier based on the block's location in a memory; and
creating a machine identifier based on the object identifiers of the deleted records associated with the allocated memory block locations of the one or more memory blocks.
- 2-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting said machine identifier to a remote computing device which creates a program based on said machine identifier; and
receiving said program from said remote computing device and storing said program in said file, said program being adapted to check that the object identifiers of the memory blocks of which the file is comprised are consistent with said machine identifier.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said program operates to decrypt encrypted content when said program is running on a device having a particular machine identifier, and wherein said program denies decryption of said encrypted content if the object identifiers of said memory blocks of which the file is comprised are inconsistent with said machine identifier.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said machine identifier comprises a concatenation of the object identifiers of said memory blocks of which the file is comprised, wherein the machine identifier is embedded in the program, and wherein the program checks

whether the machine identifier is consistent with the object identifiers by concatenating the object identifiers of the file in which the program is stored and comparing the concatenated object identifiers to the embedded machine identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-readable instructions that:

allocate a file in memory, said file comprising at least a first block and a second block, said first block being associated with a first randomized value representing a first location in memory where said first block is located and said second block being associated with a second randomized value representing a second location in memory wherein said second block is located; and

generate a machine identification based on said first value and said second value, wherein the first block and the second block comprise locations derived from a list of records randomly deleted from a database of object identifiers.

9. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein said machine identification is generated by concatenating at least said first and second values.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8, having stored thereon further computer-readable instructions that receive a program from a remote computing device and store said program in said file, said program being adapted to check that said machine identification is consistent with the values associated with said first and second blocks.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~8~~ 11, having stored thereon further computer-readable instructions that randomize said list by adding and deleting records selected at random by a random number-generating module.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, having stored thereon further computer-readable instructions that wait a specified period of time before allocating said file.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for generating a machine identification for a computing device comprising a file system that allocates storage blocks, each of the blocks having a block identifier that represents the location of a block in a memory of the computing device, the file system maintaining a list of unused locations in the memory that may be allocated for storage of information, the computing device having a database module that allocates memory in which to store database records, that de-allocates records upon request, and that places de-allocated records on the list whereby the de-allocated records may be reallocated for storage of information, the system comprising:

a database creation module that uses said database to allocate a number of dummy records;

a random number generator that selects dummy records to be deleted, wherein the selected records are deleted, and the locations of the deleted records added to the list of unused locations; and

a machine identification generator that allocates a file comprising a plurality of blocks allocated from the list of unused locations in the memory and generates a machine identification based on the block identifiers for the blocks of which the file is comprised.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising:

a software acquisition module that uploads the machine identification to a server which creates a program based on the machine identification and which stores the program in the file, the machine identification being embedded within the program, the program containing instructions which verify that the machine identification embedded within the program is consistent with the block identifiers of the blocks comprising the file in which the program is stored.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the machine identification is embedded in the program in an obfuscated form.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said machine identification generator generates the machine identification by concatenating the block identifiers for the blocks of which the file is comprised.